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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,697	05/27/2005	Robert Mark Stefan Porter	282546US8XPC T	2286
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
REDDING, THOMAS M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2624				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com

oblonpat@oblon.com

jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/536,697

Applicant(s)

PORTER ET AL.

Examiner

THOMAS M. REDDING

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-11, 14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-11, 14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's response received on 4/10/2008 is fully considered herein. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14 and 16 are currently pending, claims 5, 12-13 and 15 have been cancelled by the applicant.

Specification

2. In response to applicant's amendment of the abstract removing the title and extraneous text the objection to the abstract is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. In response to applicant's cancellation of claims 12-13 and amendment of claim 14 to a statutory form, the 101 rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1,2, 4, 6, 8-11, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (US 7,099,510) in combination with McGrath et al. (US 7,289,717).

Regarding claims 1, 11, 14 and 16, Jones teaches [a] face detection apparatus ("the object detector of the present invention detects objects (e.g., faces) at any scale and location", Jones, column 2, line 36) generating an output indicating a likelihood of a region of an image containing a face, the apparatus comprising:

means for (structure disclosed by the applicant is a general purpose computer, page 3, line 8, Jones likewise discloses "the present invention provides computer apparatus and computer-implemented methods for detecting instances of objects in an image", Jones, column 3, line 32), comparing the region with face data that indicates a presence of the face and for detecting respective likelihood values indicating the likelihood of the region containing the face in a group of respective different face sizes ("Using a cascaded approach, the present invention quickly determines if a face could potentially appear at a given scale and location", Jones, column 2, line 53 and "The summation function includes a global threshold that determines whether or not a sum of the summation function indicates a detection of one of the instances of the certain object in the given subwindow", Jones, column 4, line 32, Jones calculates values for given classification scenarios); and

means for (structure disclosed by the applicant is a general purpose computer, page 3, line 8, Jones likewise discloses "the present invention provides computer

Art Unit: 2624

apparatus and computer-implemented methods for detecting instances of objects in an image", Jones, column 3, line 32) modifying at least one of the group and the likelihood values based on a face size or a range of face sizes appropriate to at least one classification of the image ("This approach of the invention allows the object detector to discard quickly subwindows that do not show enough features of the object and to continue to process through the cascade only those subwindows that have enough features that indicate the likelihood of an instance of the object in the subwindow", Jones, Column 2, line 60, The output from the previous stage affects the evaluation of subsequent stages).

Jones does not teach the means for modifying being responsive to metadata associated with the image defining the at least one classification of the image, the image being a part of a video sequence and the at least one classification includes a video program type.

McGrath working in a related problem solving area of video acquisition does teach metadata associated with the image ("The term metadata as used herein refers to and includes any form of information or data which serves to describe either the content of audio/video material or parameters present or used to generate the audio/video material or any other information associated with the audio/video material", McGrath, column 1, line 48) defining the at least one classification of the image ("Metadata may be, for example, "semantic metadata" which provides contextual/descriptive information

about the actual content of the audio/video material. Examples of semantic metadata are the start of periods of dialogue, changes in a scene, introduction of new faces or face positions within a scene", McGrath, column 1, line 53, The semantic information described by McGrath does classify the nature of the material covered in the sequence), the image being a part of a video sequence ("FIG. 7 provides a schematic representation of a post production process in which the audio/video material is edited to produce an audio/video program", McGrath, column 11, line 62) and the at least one classification includes a video program type (McGrath, table in column 7 describes type of content of the video for different shots).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the method of McGrath to record and associate metadata with video sequences together with the face detection system of Jones to select only relevant video sequences of interest ("As such, the editing terminal 184 can be used to identify and select from the metadata 210 the items of audio/video material which are required in order to produce a program", McGrath, column 14, line 14. Jones teaches the concept of using sub-windows to quickly determine regions in an image that could contain a face; the teaching of McGrath extends this concept to the next level to only consider video sequences that likely contain faces based on hints provided by the associated metadata).

Further regarding claim 14 and 16, Jones teaches a computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform the method described above ("In one embodiment, a computer program product 180, including a computer readable or usable medium (e.g., one or more CDROM's, diskettes, tapes, etc.), provides software instructions for the image integrator 26 and/or object detector 28. The computer program product 180 may be installed by any suitable software installation procedure, as is well known in the art", Jones, column 6, line 28 and with respect to claim 16, the programming described by Jones provides the configuration of the comparator and controller).

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches wherein the means for comparing weighs the likelihood values to enhance the likelihood of the face in a face size appropriate to the at least one classification of the image ("the present invention quickly determines if a face could potentially appear at a given scale ...", Jones, column 2, line 53 and "The object detector scales the homogenous classification functions respectively for each different size of the working window", Jones, column 3, line 56, if the face cannot appear at a given scale, it's likelihood is effectively zero).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches means for detecting whether a greatest one of the likelihood values exceeds a threshold likelihood value ("The summation function includes a global threshold that determines whether or

not a sum of the summation function indicates a detection of one of the instances of the certain object in the given subwindow", Jones, column 4, line 32).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches wherein the comparing means for comparing derives attributes from respective blocks of the region ("Each of the homogenous classification functions in sequence in the cascade respectively has increasing accuracy in identifying the certain objects. A homogenous classification function consists of a number of features", Jones, column 3, line 41), compares the derived attributes with attributes that indicate the presence of the face, and derives a probability of the presence of the face by a similarity between the derived attributes and the attributes that indicate the presence of the face ("The summation function includes a global threshold that determines whether or not a sum of the summation function indicates a detection of one of the instances of the certain object in the given subwindow", Jones, column 4, line 32).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches [a] video conferencing apparatus: comprising the apparatus according to claim 1 ("Knowledge of the location and scale of a face can be used in teleconferencing applications as well", Jones, column 3, line 10).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches [a] surveillance apparatus comprising the apparatus according to claim 1 ("A face detector based on the present invention can also play a central role in security camera applications. Such a face detector may be used to summarize many hours of airport surveillance tape into a single web page that shows a picture of each person that passed through a security checkpoint", column 3, line 15)).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches [a] display apparatus comprising: a display screen; a video camera; and the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the video camera and the apparatus are arranged with respect to the display screen to detect faces looking at the display screen ("The present invention can be used in real-time applications in which the appearance of an object can be used to drive a user interface. For example, an object detector for faces (i.e., face detector) that is designed in accordance with the present invention functions in a kiosk like those used in bank ATM's (automatic teller machines) or airport ticketing machines to identify faces in a real-time application", Jones, column 3, line 4).

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (US 7,099,510) and McGrath et al. (US 7,289,717) in combination with Daly et al. (US 6,173,069).

Regarding claim 3 the combination of Jones and McGrath teaches an [a]pparatus according to claim 1.

The combination of Jones and McGrath does not teach wherein the means for modifying selects a subset of the group of for detecting the likelihood values, and the subset is dependent upon the face size or the range of face sizes appropriate to the at least one classification of the image.

Daley, working in the same field of endeavor of face detection does teach wherein the means for modifying selects a subset of the group of for detecting the likelihood values, and the subset is dependent upon the face size or the range of face sizes appropriate to the at least one classification of the image ("In most video telephone applications the head is usually centrally located in the upper third of the image. Moreover, the size of the face is usually within a range of sizes and thus candidate circles that are exceedingly small or excessively large are not suitable", Daly, column 7, line 45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teaching of Daly to select a sub-set of possible face positions and sizes with the face detection system of Jones in order to use the "implicit characteristics [of video teleconferencing devices] that may be exploited to further determine the appropriateness of candidate

circles" (Daly, column 7, line 43). Imposing these limits also reduce the amount of computation required to analyze a scene.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (US 7,099,510) and McGrath et al. (US 7,289,717) in combination with Moghaddam et al. (IEEE, TPAMI Vol 19, 1997).

The combination of Jones and McGrath teaches an [a]pparatus according to claim 6.

The combination of Jones and McGrath does not teach wherein the attributes that indicate the presence of the face comprise projections of image areas onto one or more image eigenblocks.

Moghaddam, working in a similar problem solving area of face recognition does teach wherein the attributes that indicate the presence of the face comprise projections of image areas onto one or more image eigenblocks ("we must incorporate the underlying probability distribution of the object. Subspace methods and eigenspace decompositions are particularly well-suited to such a task", Moghaddam, page, 696, Section 1.1, first paragraph).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the eigen-space method as taught by Moghaddam in the face detection system of Jones to implement a face recognizer that can provide a compact and parametric description of the object's appearance and also automatically identify the degrees-of-freedom of the underlying statistical variability (Moghaddam, page 697, first paragraph). It would be an additional classification method to add to Jones's cascade of classifiers.

Response to Arguments

Summary of Applicant's Remarks: With respect to claims 1, 11, 14, and 16 Jones does not teach or suggest modifying likelihood values based either on face size or range of face size appropriate to classification.

Examiner's Response: Jones determines if a region could contain a face ("Using a cascaded approach, the present invention quickly determines if a face could potentially appear at a given scale and location", Jones, column 2, line 53). If no face is determined to be there (in a specified size), the likelihood is low or zero.

Summary of Applicant's Remarks: With respect to amended claims 1, 11, 14, and 16, the Jones reference does not teach or suggest a means for modifying the group of respective face sizes or corresponding likelihood score of the faces in the group responsive to metadata associated with an image defining at least one classification of the image.

Examiner's Response: See updated rejection above. McGrath teaches the use of metadata describing video content.

Summary of Applicant's Remarks: With respect to amended claims 1, 11, 14, and 16, the Jones reference does not teach or suggest a classification includes a program type.

Examiner's Response: See updated rejection above. McGrath teaches the use of metadata describing video content.

Summary of Applicant's Remarks: With respect to amended claims 1, 11, 14, and 16, the Daley reference is silent with regards to metadata associated with an image defining at least one classification of the image.

Examiner's Response: See updated rejection above. McGrath teaches the use of metadata describing video content.

Summary of Applicant's Remarks: One of ordinary skill in the art wishing to improve the speed of the system disclosed by Jones would be unlikely to consider Daly which describes a relatively crude system that would have problems with false positives and false negatives, and makes overly limiting assumptions regarding the form the silhouette of a face would take.

Examiner's Response: The Daly and Jones references both deal with a common problem of face detection and would be of interest to one of ordinary skill in the art working on related problems. In particular, the teaching to use relatively simple tests to quickly eliminate low probability candidates would be of interest for the potential increase in system performance.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **THOMAS M. REDDING** whose telephone number is (571)270-1579. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikram Bali can be reached on (571) 272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. M. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Vikkram Bali/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624